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## **Measures to Counter Piracy, Armed Robbery and other Acts of Violence against Merchant Shipping**

**Notice to all Ship Owners, Ship Operators, Masters and Crew**

*This notice replaces Marine Guidance Note 420(M) issued in August 2010..*

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### **Summary**

This Marine Guidance Note (MGN) provides links to websites containing information countering Piracy, Armed Robbery and other Acts of Violence against Merchant Shipping.

The UK Government has changed its policy on the use of armed guards onboard UK flagged ships and recognises that the engagement of armed guards is an option to protect human life onboard UK registered ships from the threat of piracy, but only in exceptional circumstances and where it is lawful.

This MGN includes a link to DfT's *Interim Guidance to UK Flagged Shipping on the use of Armed Guards to Defend Against the Threat of Piracy in Exceptional Circumstances*, in support of the above change in policy.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This MGN provides links to websites containing information about countering piracy, armed robbery and other acts of violence against merchant shipping and to DfT's Interim Guidance to UK flagged shipping on the use of armed guards to defend against the threat of piracy in exceptional circumstances.

### **2. Location of Advice**

2.1 The Department for Transport's *Guidance to UK Flagged Shipping on Measures to Counter Piracy, Armed Robbery and other Acts of Violence against Merchant Shipping* can be found at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/measures-to-counter-piracy>

2.2 The Department for Transport's *Interim Guidance to UK Flagged Shipping on the use of Armed Guards to Defend Against the Threat of Piracy in Exceptional Circumstances* can be found at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/use-of-armed-guards-to-defend-against-piracy>

2.3 The latest version of the *Best Management Practices* (BMP) can be found on the EU NAVFOR web site  
([http://www.mschoa.org/bmp3/Documents/BMP4%20low%20resolution%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.mschoa.org/bmp3/Documents/BMP4%20low%20resolution%20(3).pdf)).

2.4 The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization produces circulars containing advice which can be found at <http://www.imo.org/Pages/home.aspx>.

### 3. UK Policy on use of firearms

3.1 The Government recognises that the engagement of armed guards is an option to protect human life onboard UK registered ships from the threat of piracy, but only in exceptional circumstances and where it is lawful. These circumstances will be kept under review and are published in the reference at paragraph 2.1.

#### More Information

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